

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P 111145Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10918

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VAN DUSEN

REF: STATE 249897

1. EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO HAVE VISIT OF MESSRS VAN DUSEN, BERDES AND PREECE. WE WILL CONFIRM AIR RESERVATIONS AND INFORM OF HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.
2. STAFFDEL SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, OF SITUATION HERE AS IT MAY RELATE TO THEIR VISIT BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY. MAAG PROGRAM IS NOT OPERATING AT PRESENT AT FULL CAPACITY PRIMARILY FOR TWO REASONS, ONE OF WHICH IS UNCONNECTED WITH MAAG OR USG PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIANS HAVE INSISTED UPON INSPECTION OF INCOMING DIPLOMATIC POUCHES AND APO MAIL. USG, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, HAS REFUSED TO SUBMIT AND HAS SHUT DOWN DISPATCH OF BOTH POUCHES AND APO MAIL TO THIS POST. RESULT IS THAT SPARE PARTS SENT VIA APO AND DOCUMENTS, MANUALS ETC, NEEDED TO CARRY FORWARD PROGRAM ARE NOT NOW REACHING HERE. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS AWARE OF THIS, BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE PERSUADE DIRG TO LIFT RESTRICTION. EPMG HAS ALSO GROUNDED LIGHT PLANES INCLUDING MAAG AIRCRAFT. REASON FOR ALL THIS HAS TO DO WITH CURRENCY EXCHANGE PROGRAM NOW IN PROGRESS AND WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME WHEN RESTRICTIONS WILL BE LIFTED.
3. SECOND PROBLEM INVOLVES EPMG DISSATISFACTION WITH TPS43 D RADAR ("PEACE SPARK") PROGRAM, WHICH ETHIOPIANS HAVE IN EFFECT SUSPENDED, PENDING HIGH LEVEL USG POLITICAL ASSURANCE OF OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM.

4. BOTH THESE PROBLEMS MAY MAKE PROBLEMATICAL ANY MEANINGFUL

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DISCUSSIONS WITH ETHIOPIANS JUST AT THIS TIME, IF THAT IS WHAT

STAFFDEL WISHES, WE EXPECT BOTH PROBLEMS WILL BE OF SHORT TERM DURATION, BUT HAVE NO INDICATION THAT SITUATION WILL CHANGE BY TIME OF VISIT. STAFFDEL SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH EPMG'S CURRENT FIXATION ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE, THEY CAN EXPECT UNDERGO THOROUGHSEARCH OF THEIR LUGGAGE AND PROBABLY PERSONS ON ENTRY AT AIRPORT. THEY SHOULD NOT CARRY WITH THEM ANYTHING THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ALLOW ETHIOPIANS TO SEE. THEY SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT AS OF NOW, WE ARE NOT SENDING OUT ANY CLASSIFIED MATERIAL EXCEPT TELEGRAPHICALLY.

5. WE NOTE THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT STAFFDEL'S REPORT MAY BE PUBLISHED. HOW DOES DEPT WISH US TO HANDLE CLASSIFIED INFO?

6. WE FURTHER NOTESTAFFDEL'S DESIRE FOR HEAVY SCHEDULE AND WILL DOOUR BEST COMPLY, ALTHOUGH MAAG MISSION HERE IS RELATIVELY COMPACT AND PROGRAM ISNOT PARTICULARLY COMPLICATED, IN ATTEMPTING SCHEDULE THREE DAYS PRODUCTIVELY, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO KNOW HOW DEEPLY STAFFDEL WISHES GO INTO DETAILS OF PROGRAM, AND IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH STAFFDEL MAY BE INTERESTED IN KAGNEW OPERATION.

7. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT WILL BE POL COUNS HERBERT MALIN. WE NOTIFYING DAVID OTTAWAY THAT VAN DUSEN IS COMING.

TINKEN

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